

In the fall of 2012 Mayor Roach reinvigorated The Mayor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities which, although originally authorized back in 1979, had become largely inactive in recent years. The purpose of the committee is to increase public understanding relating to the inclusion of people with disabilities within the community and to work toward the elimination of attitudinal and architectural barriers. The Advisory Committee will also act as a liaison between city government and other agencies and services acting as advocates for people with disabilities and make recommendations to the Common Council as it may deem advisable.

The Committee has decided to volunteer on a community build project that is being coordinated by Habitat for Humanity. The build will be held on Saturday, May 18, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, located at 130 South Lexington Avenue in White Plains. Members of the Advisory Committee, members of Trinity UMC, including their Pastor, Rev. Pickett and members of Habitat for Humanity will all be volunteering for Habitat for Humanity at the build. The project entails making Trinity UMC more accessible to all members of the community. Specifically, volunteers will be converting an unused room into a wheelchair accessible bathroom and working on other accessibility issues.

Mayor Roach said, "This project is in direct furtherance of the Advisory Committee's mission to take steps to enhance the lives of our citizens living with disabilities. I am pleased, although not surprised, to see this dynamic group thinking creatively about how we can address the needs of those with disabilities then take the initiative on this project to do just that."

Jeremiah Frei Pearson, Advisory Committee Chair said, "This is very important work. By making community spaces accessible to all, we are growing our community and allowing people into spaces they otherwise could not access. Saturday is just the beginning. The Committee plans to partner with other community groups to make more spaces accessible. That said, the beginning is important -- by helping to make Trinity accessible we will make a real difference in people's lives."

Reverend Pickett said, "The United Methodist Church's theme has been open hearts, open minds and open doors & that is exactly what we are doing right now by reaching out to the entire community & making our church more accessible. This project has been a long-time dream for the church and we are so excited to partner with the Mayor's Committee For People With Disabilities and Habitat for Humanity to do this important work."